

SEP 11 2002

PTO/SB/30 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

RCE
27P3# 21
Date
10-8-02

**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventor's Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE</i> | <i>Application Number</i> | 09/111,731 |
| | <i>Filing Date</i> | July 8, 1998 |
| | <i>First Named Inventor</i> | YOSHINOBU SHIRAIWA |
| | <i>Group Art Unit</i> | 2672 |
| | <i>Examiner Name</i> | J. Brier |
| | <i>Attorney Docket Number</i> | 03500.012836 |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

RECEIVED

a. Previously submitted

SEP 17 2002

i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____

(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

Technology Center 2600

iii. Other _____

b. Enclosed

i. Amendment/Reply

09/12/2002 SSITHIB1 00000072 09111731

740.00 DP

ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

01 FC:179

iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b. Other Petition For Extension Of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

3. **Fees**

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205

i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)

ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. Other _____

b. Checks in the amounts of \$740.00 and \$110.00 enclosed

c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Andrew D. Mickelsen | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 50,957 |
| Signature | <i>Andrew D. Mickelsen</i> | Date | September 6, 2002 |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: September 6, 2002.

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|------|-------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Andrew D. Mickelsen | Date | September 6, 2002 |
| Signature | <i>Andrew D. Mickelsen</i> | Date | September 6, 2002 |

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND FEES AND COMPLETED FORMS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.